Cambridge City Council   Item

To: Executive Councillor for Communities:
                Councillor Richard Johnson

Report by: Head of Community Services

Relevant scrutiny   Community Services Scrutiny Committee   30/6/2016
committee:

Wards affected: Abbey Arbury Castle Cherry Hinton Coleridge East
                   Chesterton King's Hedges Market Newnham
                   Petersfield Queen Edith's Romsey Trumpington
                   West Chesterton

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COMMUNITY PROVISION

Not a key decision

1. Executive summary

1.1   This report provides an update on the work of the review to date and
      outlines proposals for the next phase.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

2.1   Note the findings from the 'call for evidence' part of the community
      facilities audit undertaken between January and June 2016, as
      detailed in this report.

2.2   Agree to the development of a Community Centres Strategy as set out
      in section 5 of the report. This will support the review's objective to
      build stronger communities and provide a clear rationale for the
      Council's support for community facilities under 3 categories:

      a. **Core Centres** - Council supported and assessed to be
          strategically important centres
      b. **Transitional Centres** - not assessed as strategically important
          to the Council and require further options appraisal work
      c. **Independent Centres** - not assessed as strategically important
          to the Council and already receive minimal or no Council support
          or core funding

2.3 Agree to work being undertaken between June and September 2016 to continue to invite and assess Expressions of Interest. This will include following up those already received including the County Council's review of community hubs, associated City Council strategies and specific areas of interest expressed by voluntary sector organisations.

2.4 Provide better information to promote all community facilities across the city in two phases:

    a. Publishing a list of facilities which is searchable at ward level
    b. Looking into how this list could be further developed and made available in an accessible and sustainable way.

3. Background

3.1 This committee has considered two previous reports on this strategic review of community provision. In October 2015 the approach/scope, work programme and outcomes were approved.

3.2 For the purposes of this work a community facility is defined as a building that is available for use by the wider community, and/or for hire by local groups for a range of community/social activities and meetings, for at least some of their opening hours each week. The facilities have to be accessible to everyone in the community regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and age.

3.3 The agreed scope of the work includes City Council run centres, community development resource and support for other community facilities, major growth sites, County libraries and the council's Digital Transformation and Customer Access strategies.

3.4 The agreed work programme considers current provision, need, opportunity and future focus, and contains the following components:
- An audit of facility provision (to also support new s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) requirements.)
- An analysis undertaken with partners of community and population requirements in respect of a range of issues and services
- Anti-poverty strategy (APS) priorities such as support for food banks and credit unions.
- Broader Council engagement with customers, particularly through the Digital Transformation Strategy.
- Consideration of opportunity for collaboration with Property Services and other stakeholders such as the County Library Service.

3.5   The work programme has three phases:
- Phase One   2015/16   Auditing
- Phase Two   2016/17   Planning/implementing
- Phase Three 2017/18   Final implementation

3.6   The outcomes for the review agreed in October 2015, are:
- Stronger communities (e.g. inclusive, connected, resilient, good places to live)
- Council resources targeted to known needs and focused on maximising efficiencies and income generation wherever possible.

4. Community Facilities Audit – work completed to date

4.1   **Phase 1** - The aim of this audit was to understand the range of community facility provision across the city. An initial list of potential community facilities was compiled from existing databases, planning and other research material.

4.2   In November 2015, 149 venues (including our own centres and 35 schools) were invited to complete a survey using Survey Monkey, which asked respondents about current use, capacity, and future development. Headline findings were included in the report from the 68 respondents (46% return rate) which increased to 75 after a follow up. A summary of the Phase 1 audit findings are summarised in Appendix 1. Formal reports summarising the findings from the Phase 1 were also taken to each of the Area Committees in the March/April 2016 cycle.

4.3   **Phase 2** - A map was prepared from the list of facilities who responded to the initial survey, and a questionnaire developed which aimed to understand where there is capacity and unmet demand for facilities and provision. The questionnaire was made available as an online survey and was taken to informal drop-ins before each of the April Area Committee meetings. The drop-in sessions and online survey were sent out by email to all community organisations and promoted through fliers at community centres; via the press and as a consultation on the City Council's website.

4.4   In total, 47 questionnaires were completed and 21 additional community facilities were identified by the community, which are now being contacted for verification and for further details. There was also an opportunity to use a specific meeting of the Equalities Partnership as a focus group to ascertain the views of equality organisations

across the City. A summary of the Phase 2 audit findings are summarised at Appendix 2.

4.5 **Key Audit Findings**
- There are lots of facilities across the city available for use by the community – 176 identified to date (subject to further verification)
- People don't know where they are, how to book them, or what facilities they have available to use

5. Next Steps

5.1 **Further Audit Work**
- Continue audit work to verify community access and facilities
- City Council Community Facilities - we have started collecting a range of data regards centres we currently directly manage and community development work undertaken. We are also developing the picture of facilities owned but not managed by the council.
- Survey to assess why people don't use city council managed community facilities. In November 2015 we undertook a survey of people currently using the facilities we manage and we are now targeting those who do not use our centres to understand why this is. We have put articles in Cambridge Matters and a number of local newsletters.

5.2 **Community Centres Strategy**
To enable decisions to be made about the future focus and management arrangements of our community facilities, we need to consolidate the work to date within a Community Centres Strategy that provides a clear rationale for the Council's support for community facilities into the future.

5.3 The strategy will use the audit data that has been collected to identify strategic priority areas for future support. These areas will be identified using GIS network modelling to map and understand the needs of the local community who live within a 15 minute walk time of each of our centres. This catchment is based on a judgement of how far Cambridge residents can reasonably be expected to travel to access community provision. A catchment map for each centre will show all of the community facility provision available in that area and this will be overlain with ward boundaries and other community level data that is available on poverty and disadvantage.

5.4 A criteria based methodology will be used to determine an overall ranking for each centre based on the location of the centre and the

extent to which they serve a catchment of strategic importance (i.e. without any other coverage and/or areas of high deprivation and need). It is proposed to use the ranking to categorise our centres into 3 groups:

   a. **Core Centres** - Council supported and assessed to be strategically important centres
   b. **Transitional Centres** - not assessed as strategically important to the Council and require further options appraisal work
   c. **Independent Centres** - not assessed as strategically important to the Council and already receive minimal or no Council support or core funding

5.5   The strategy will also take into consideration other relevant City Council needs assessments and strategies (e.g. Digital Transformation Strategy, Anti-Poverty Strategy) and the County Council's review of community hubs.

5.6   Expressions of Interest will continue to be invited and assessed between June and September 2016. We have invited expressions of interest in the wider review outcomes to help inform the consultation and engagement process, and to be able to keep people informed. We will be implementing regular updates to interested individuals, groups, members, officers and staff.

5.7   We will also follow up with those that have a specific area of interest such as voluntary organisations who have expressed an interest in running our centres, the County Community Hubs, and the council's officers leading on associated strategies.

5.8   The programme of work to develop the strategy will include:
   ▪ Strategy analysis work to identify priority areas from data such as:
     - Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
     - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
     - Corporate outreach priorities
       (e.g. digital inclusion, customer service and accommodation)
     - Equalities needs assessments
     - Other agencies local priorities (e.g. County Hubs, CCG, Police)
   ▪ Identify priority communities of interest and their needs
   ▪ Undertake options assessment on how these needs could be met
   ▪ Review options and develop a draft strategy
   ▪ Identify an action plan based on the 3 categories highlighted above (core, transitional and independent)

5.9   The aim is to bring a draft strategy to the October 2016 meeting of this committee which will depend on the detailed requirements of the work programme above.

6. Timetable

Mapping data	December 2015 - January 2016
Call for Evidence	January - June 2016
CS Scrutiny Committee - findings from the Call for Evidence	June 2016
Expressions of interest	June - September 2016
Complete audit work	June - September 2016
CS Scrutiny Committee - draft Strategy	October 2016
CS Scrutiny Committee - final Strategy and Action Plan	January or March 2017

7. Implications

(a)   **Financial Implications**
   ▪ The next steps of this review identified in this report will be carried out within existing resources.

(b)   **Staffing Implications**
   ▪ There are no staffing implications at this stage in this review process apart from the impact on existing officer time.

(c)   **Equality and Poverty Implications**
   ▪ The existing Equalities Impact Assessment will be updated in respect of the communication and engagement plan.

(d)   **Environmental Implications**
   ▪ There are no implications at this stage

(e)   **Procurement**
   ▪ There are no procurement implications at this stage

(f)   **Consultation and Communication**
   ▪ A consultation and communication plan is part of the project plan. This includes engagement with community facilities, area committees, residents, voluntary sector organisations, officers and staff. Information will be distributed via email, the local press, social media, local centres and community groups.

(g) **Community Safety**
  ▪ There are no implications at this stage.

8. Background papers
These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
  ▪ Report on the Strategic Review of Community Provision to Community Services Scrutiny Committee 8.10.15
  ▪ Community facility surveys (not available to the public)

9. Appendices
  ▪ Appendix 1 - Phase 1 Initial Survey Findings
  ▪ Appendix 2 - Phase 2 Survey of Provision and Gaps

10. Inspection of papers
To inspect the background papers please follow the appropriate link or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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